

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 981

By Berke

A RESOLUTION to recognize Chancellor Howell N. Peoples on the occasion of his retirement as Chancellor of Chancery Court for Hamilton County.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those jurists who have evidenced devotion to the law and our judicial system throughout their years on the bench; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Howell N. Peoples is one such noteworthy jurist who has served with distinction as Chancellor of Chancery Court for Hamilton County since his appointment on May 18, 1978, and subsequent election and re-election without opposition in 1978, 1982, 1990, 1998, and 2006; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary thirty-two year tenure as Chancellor of Chancery Court, he has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, prior to his illustrious career as Chancellor of Chancery Court Part II for Hamilton County, Howell Peoples rendered sterling service as an Clerk and Master of Hamilton County from 1975 until 1978, having been appointed by Chancellors Herschel P. Franks and Wilkes T. Thrasher, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, born on September 22, 1942, in Knoxville, Howell N. Peoples is the son of Clifford Peoples, who was a farmer, and Helen Peoples, who worked in a hosiery mill until its closing and later became a nurse; and

WHEREAS, a 1960 graduate of Clinton High School, Chancellor Peoples earned both his Bachelor of Science degree and his Juris Doctorate degree at the University of Tennessee, working his way through law school as a night clerk at the Knox County General Sessions Court; and

WHEREAS, admitted to the Tennessee bar in 1967, Howell Peoples began his legal career in practice with Joe Magill in Clinton prior to being named Senior Staff Attorney at the University of Tennessee Legal Clinic supervising law students and providing legal services to indigent persons in 1969; and

WHEREAS, relocating to Hamilton County in 1972, he was named Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Chattanooga, and hired Archie T. Lawrence, John Dickey, Charles Gardner and Ronald W. Durby as staff attorneys; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Peoples ably served his Nation in the armed services as a member of the United States Army Reserve from 1967-1973, receiving an Honorable Discharge; and

WHEREAS, he is a distinguished member of several legal organizations, including the Tennessee Judicial Conference, the Tennessee Bar Association, the American Inns of Court, and the Tennessee Judicial Evaluation Commission; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his community, he has also contributed his time and energies to numerous civic-minded organizations and endeavors, serving as past president of the Chattanooga Civitan Club from 1987-88; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he is most appreciative of the love he has shared with his wife, Linda Richards Peoples; their two children, Chris and Jay; and their twin grandchildren, Connor and Emily; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Peoples exemplifies the allegiance to equality and justice under the law that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his fellow members of the bench and bar, the parties appearing before his court, and the community at large; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Chancellor Howell N. Peoples our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement from his voluminous duties as the Chancellor of Chancery Court

for Hamilton County applaud his years of dedicated public service and wise counsel, and wish him every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.